

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 08365 290926Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 290853Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3583
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T SEOUL 8365

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH KS FR
SUBJ: REPORTED ROK PURCHASES OF KORI 5 AND 6 REACTORS FROM
FRANCE

REF: STATE 255370

1. ACCORDING FRENCH AMBASSADOR LANDY, ROKG HAS APPROACHED
FRENCH ON POSSIBILITY OF AWARDING CONTRACTS FOR KORI 5 AND
6 REACTORS TO FRANCE. ROKG INTEREST STIMULATED SOME MONTHS AGO

DURING DPM NAM DUCK WOO'S VISIT TO PARIS. IMPASSE ON
NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ISSUE WITH USG HAS RESULTED IN MUCH
INCREASED KOREAN PRESSURES TO WORK OUT CONTRACTS FOR KORI
5 AND 6 WITH FRANCE.

2. FRENCH INDUSTRIAL REPRESENTATIVES HAVE VISITED KOREA
WITHIN PAST TWO WEEKS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CONTRACTS. HOWEVER,
ACCORDING LANDY, CONTRACT AWARDS FAR FROM COMPLETED. AVAIL-
ABILITY OF REACTORS IN NEAR TERM IS NOT RPT NOT ASSURED SINCE
FRENCH ARE COMMITTED TO ELEVEN REACTORS FOR FRANCE AND ONE FOR
IRAN ALREADY. IN ADDITION, MAJOR PROBLEM IS FINANCING AND
LANDY EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT AS TO AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE FINANCING
FOR KORI 5 AND 6.

3. COMMENT: WE SHOULD NOTE THAT LANDY HAS NOT BEEN ENTHUSIAST
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FOR EXPANSION FRENCH NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES IN KOREA AND MAY BE

OVER-STATING PROBLEMS INVOLVED. AT THIS STAGE INFORMATION
AVAILABLE HERE INDICATES STRONG KOREAN INTEREST AND POSITIVE
RESPONSE FROM FRENCH INDUSTRIAL GROUPS INVOLVED, WITH NO RPT
NO FINAL COMMITMENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROCUREMENT, CONTRACTS, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL08365
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750374-0791
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975109/aaaaahzn.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 255370
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED ROK PURCHASES OF KORI 5 AND 6 REACTORS FROM FRANCE
TAGS: TECH, KS, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006